

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An article comprising a composite hard coat layer which comprises a hard coat layer on the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer on the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein

the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof,

the anti-staining surface layer comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silicon compound, and

the anti-staining surface layer is fixed on the hard coat layer, and wherein the article is an optical recording medium or a magneto-optical recording medium.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 1, wherein the anti-staining surface layer has a thickness of 1 nm or more and 100 nm or less.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 1, wherein the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof, and

the anti-staining surface layer comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silane coupling agent.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 1, wherein

the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof, and

the anti-staining surface layer comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silazane compound.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The article according to claim 1, wherein
the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silazane compound, and
the anti-staining surface layer comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silane coupling agent.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 1, wherein
the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silazane compound, and
the anti-staining surface layer comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silazane compound.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 3, wherein the hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound is selected from silicon compounds represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein X is a hydrolyzable group; R is an organic group; and n is an integer of 0 to 3.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 3, wherein the silane coupling agent comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 4, wherein the silazane compound comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 1, wherein the hard coat agent composition further comprises a polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays and/or upon application of heat.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method for forming a composite hard coat layer comprising a hard coat layer and an anti-staining surface layer on a surface of an article, the method comprising:

applying a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof onto a surface of an article to be hard-coat-treated to form a hard coat agent composition layer;

film-forming, on a surface of the hard coat agent composition layer, with an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silicon compound to form a surface material layer; and

heating the formed hard coat agent composition layer and surface material layer to cure the hard coat agent composition layer and the surface material layer simultaneously to form a hard coat layer contacting the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer contacting the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein the article is an optical recording medium or a magneto-optical recording medium.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the anti-staining surface layer has a thickness of 1 nm or more and 100 nm or less.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the hard coat agent composition comprises a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof, or comprises a silazane compound.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material comprises a silane coupling agent having a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent, or comprises a silazane compound having a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the hard coat agent composition further comprises a polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays and/or upon application of heat.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method ~~for forming the composite hard coat layer~~ according to claim 11, further comprising
drying the hard coat agent composition layer to remove a solvent comprised in the hard coat agent composition from the hard coat agent composition layer, after said applying step and before said film-forming step.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

optionally drying the hard coat agent composition layer, and then heating and/or irradiating the hard coat agent composition layer with active energy rays to turn the hard coat agent composition layer into a half-cured state after said applying step and before said film-forming step, wherein, the hard coat agent composition comprises the polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures when irradiated with active energy rays.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the surface film-forming step comprises applying or depositing the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 15, further comprising

irradiating with active energy rays after said heating step or
irradiating with active energy rays before said heating step, wherein
the hard coat agent composition comprises the polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the active energy rays are electron rays or ultraviolet rays.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An article comprising a composite hard coat layer which comprises a hard coat layer on the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer on the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein the article is produced by

applying a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof onto a surface of an article to be hard-coat-treated to form a hard coat agent composition layer,

film-forming, on a surface of the hard coat agent composition layer, with an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises a silicon compound to form a surface material layer, and

heating the formed hard coat agent composition layer and surface material layer to cure the hard coat agent composition layer and the surface material layer simultaneously to form a hard coat layer contacting the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer contacting the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein the article is an optical recording medium or a magneto-optical recording medium.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The article according to claim 4, wherein the hydrolysis polymerizable silicon compound is selected ~~comprised in the hard coat agent composition is selected~~ from silicon compounds represented by the following general formula (I):



~~where~~ wherein X is a hydrolysable group; R is an organic group; and n is an integer from 0 to 3.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The article according to claim 5, wherein the silane coupling agent comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The article according to claim 6, wherein the silazane compound comprised in the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine based substituent.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the active energy rays are electron or ultraviolet rays.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (New): An article comprising a composite hard coat layer which comprises a hard coat layer on the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer on the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein

the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof,

the anti-staining surface layer comprises a cured product of an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a silazane compound and a silane coupling agent having a perfluoropolyether group, and

wherein the anti-staining surface layer is fixed on the hard coat layer.

Claim 29 (New): The article according to claim 28, wherein the anti-staining surface layer has a thickness of 1 nm or more and 100 nm or less.

Claim 30 (New): The article according to claim 28, wherein the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof.

Claim 31 (New): The article according to claim 28, wherein the hard coat layer comprises a cured product of a hard coat agent composition comprising a silazane compound.

Claim 32 (New): The article according to claim 30, wherein the hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound is selected from silicon compounds represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein X is a hydrolysable group; R is an organic group; and n is an integer of 0 to 3.

Claim 33 (New): The article according to claim 30, wherein the silazane compound comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 34 (New): The article according to claim 31, wherein the silazane compound comprised in the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 35 (New): The article according to claim 28, wherein the hard coat agent composition further comprises a polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays and/or upon application of heat.

Claim 36 (New): A method for forming a composite hard coat layer comprising a hard coat layer and an anti-staining surface layer on a surface of an article, the method comprising:

applying a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof onto a surface of an article to be hard-coat-treated to form a hard coat agent composition layer;

film-forming, on a surface of the hard coat agent composition layer, with an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a silazane compound and a silane coupling agent having a perfluoropolyether group, to form a surface material layer; and

heating the formed coat agent composition layer and surface material layer to cure the hard coat agent composition layer and the surface material layer simultaneously to form a hard coat layer contacting the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer contacting the surface of the hard coat layer.

Claim 37 (New): The method according to claim 36, wherein the anti-staining surface layer has a thickness of 1 nm or more and 100 nm or less.

Claim 38 (New): The method according to claim 36, wherein the hard coat agent composition comprises a hydrolysis-polymerizable silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof, or comprises a silazane compound.

Claim 39 (New): The method according to claim 36, wherein the silazane compound comprises a silicone-based and/or a fluorine-based substituent.

Claim 40 (New): The method according to claim 36, wherein the hard coat agent composition further comprises a polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays and/or upon application of heat.

Claim 41 (New): The method according to claim 36, further comprising,
drying the hard coat agent composition layer to remove a solvent comprised in the hard coat agent composition from the hard coat agent composition layer, after said applying step and before said film-forming step.

Claim 42 (New): The method according to claim 36, further comprising:
optionally drying the hard coat agent composition layer, and then
heating and/or irradiating the hard coat agent composition layer with active energy rays to turn the hard coat agent composition layer into a half-cured state after said applying step and before said film-forming step,
wherein the hard coat agent composition comprises the polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures when irradiated with active energy rays.

Claim 43 (New): The method according to claim 36, wherein the film-forming step comprises applying or depositing the anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material.

Claim 44 (New): The method according to claim 41, further comprising
irradiating with active energy rays after said heating step or
irradiating with active energy rays before said heating step, wherein

the hard coat agent composition comprises the polymerization curing organic compound that polymerizes and cures upon irradiation with active energy rays.

Claim 45 (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein the active energy rays are electron rays or ultraviolet rays.

Claim 46 (New): The method according to claim 44, wherein the active energy rays are electron rays or ultraviolet rays.

Claim 47 (New): An article comprising a composite hard coat layer which comprises a hard coat layer on the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer on the surface of the hard coat layer, wherein the article is produce by

applying a hard coat agent composition comprising a silicon compound and/or a condensation compound thereof onto a surface of an article to be hard-coat-treated to form a hard coat agent composition layer,

film-forming, on a surface of the hard coat agent composition layer, with an anti-staining and/or lubricating functional material that comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a silazane compound and a silane coupling agent having a perfluoropolyether group, to form a surface material layer, and

heating the formed hard coat agent composition layer and surface material layer to cure the hard coat agent composition layer and the surface material simultaneously to form a hard coat layer contacting the surface of the article and an anti-staining surface layer contacting the surface of the hard coat layer.

Claim 48 (New): The article according to claim 28, wherein the article is an optical recording medium, a magneto-optical recording medium, an optical lens, an optical filter, an anti-reflection film, or a display element.

Claim 49 (New): The article according to claim 47, wherein the article is an optical recording medium, a magneto-optical recording medium, an optical lens, an optical filter, an anti-reflection film, or a display element.